



## Reginald Boyne of Leicester Fosse and Everton (Auckland)

Reg Boyne was born in Leeds in November 1891 and spent some of his childhood in Blackpool. He played for tonight's opponents in wartime games but perhaps enjoyed his finest football days 11,000 miles away as the prolific centre-forward of Everton FC of Auckland.

Having emigrated to New Zealand with his family in 1905, Reg trained as a joiner. His father, William, became president of the Everton Auckland Club, which was still in its infancy, having been founded in 1907 in the wake of the original Everton's first FA Cup win. Reg, along with his younger brothers William and Harold, donned the club's black and blue hooped shirts and helped them to win league titles in consecutive seasons (1912 and 1913) and the 1914 Falcon Cup. Tragically, Harold was killed on the Western Front in 1917 – one of eight players from the club to succumb in action during the First World War

During a game in 1913 at the Auckland Domain, home of the rival Brotherhood club, Reg scored a first-half hat-trick of what was described as 'great running goals' past Burton in the Brotherhood goal. Burton just happened to be the son of an Aston Villa director and as they left the pitch Burton said: 'Hey Reg, would you go back home and play for Aston Villa if you had a chance?' Reg answered: 'Don't be a bloody fool. Of course I would!' Within weeks Reg was on his way to London for a holiday and it was at the capital's Fenchurch Street Railway station that he signed the contract with three Aston Villa directors.

To his great surprise, billboards and placards in Birmingham heralded his arrival. Reg made his Villains debut against Bradford City on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1913. He went on to make eight senior appearances before war broke out. Working as an aircraft fitter in Loughborough, Reg made wartime guest appearances for Villa but also guested for Notts County, Leicester



Fosse and Loughborough Brush. With the Fosse – as Leicester City was then known - he made 23 appearances and scored two goals in the Football League Midland Section.

Whilst based in the Leicestershire town he met and married Yvonne Viacne. In 1919 he moved to the London area and played for Southern League Brentford FC. There he holds a place in the Bees' football history for being their first goalscorer in the Football League - during a win against Millwall on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1920.

Although scoring a creditable ten goals in twenty-one Division Three South appearances, he was released at the end of the campaign. In 1921 Reg returned to New Zealand where he continued playing football with North Shore and later became an Auckland selector. Everton FC of Auckland sadly folded in 1924. Reg lived out his days in his adopted home city and passed away on the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1963, aged 71.

### **Richie Gillham – Everton FC Heritage Society**

